

distribution cable can be spliced or connected to one or more drop lines. Additionally, individual transmission mediums of the distribution cable can be spliced or connected to each other.

Conventional enclosures usually suffer from a number of deficiencies. For example, the distribution cable and individual drop lines enter the enclosure through the same first and second ports. Accordingly, existing drop lines and existing transmission mediums of the distribution cable must be disturbed each time a new drop line or distribution cable is added to, or removed from, the enclosure. Such a disturbance can damage existing splices or connections or both, thereby disrupting the services provided to the subscribers.

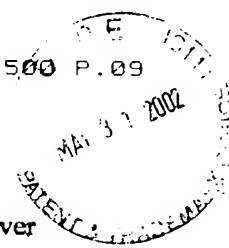
Additionally, conventional enclosures typically contain a loose-fitting gasket between a housing of the enclosure and a removable cover plate. The cover plate can be removed from the enclosure to provide access for working in the enclosure. When the cover plate is removed, the loose-fitting gasket usually must also be removed and handled carefully to protect it from physical damage and environmental elements. If care is not exercised, the loose-fitting gasket can be dropped when the cover plate is removed, thereby damaging the gasket or exposing it to harmful environmental elements such as dirt. Furthermore, because the gasket is loose-fitting, it typically must be manually held in place when the cover plate is being reattached to the housing. During attachment, a gap can sometimes be created between the cover plate and the gasket or between the gasket and the housing. The gap can allow external environmental elements such as moisture or dirt to enter the enclosure and damage the splices contained therein. Additionally, when the enclosure is mounted such that the cover plate and gasket are in a vertical position, holding the gasket in place while attaching the cover plate to the housing can be a difficult task.

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204 can also comprise a splice tray 206. A pedestal 202 can be positioned over enclosure 200 to improve the aesthetic appeal of the installation and to protect enclosure 200 and the transmission mediums contained therein from damage.

From processing node 120, distribution cable 150 can be buried below ground level. At enclosure 200, a first portion of distribution cable 150 can be accessed through the ground to enter enclosure 200 through first port P1. A second portion of distribution cable 150 can enter enclosure 200 through second port P2. From enclosure 200, distribution cable 150 can be routed below ground level to another optical tap 130. In the pedestal mount configuration shown in Figure 2A, third port P3 is not typically used. The unused third port P3 can be sealed to prevent moisture from entering enclosure 200. While distribution cable 150 is inside enclosure 200, an individual transmission medium 152 can be extracted from distribution cable 150 using a ring cut or other technique. Such techniques are well-known to those skilled in the art. Individual transmission medium 152 can be directed to splice tray 206 where it can be coupled to drop lines 155. Transmission medium 152 can be coupled to drop lines 155 by a splice, a connector, or other suitable method or device.

Splice tray 206 can be part of enclosure 100 or optical tap 130. In the latter case, splice tray 206 can be coupled to splitting device 207. Splice tray 206 stores and protects optical fiber splices and connectors that are used in optical tap 130. If an individual transmission medium 152 is terminated in splice tray 206, then the remaining portion 152a of individual transmission medium 152 can be terminated in enclosure 200. If individual transmission medium 152 is designed to support communications to/from another optical tap 130, then remaining portion 152a of transmission medium 152 can be connected in splice tray 206 to provide a communications path with the other optical tap 130.

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distribution cable 150 is inside enclosure 200, individual transmission medium 152 of
distribution cable 150 can be manipulated as needed. Typically, individual
transmission medium 152 is routed to splice tray 206. In splice tray 206, individual
transmission medium 152 can be connected to one or more drop lines 155 through
5 splitting device 207.

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A strain relief device such as a hose clamp 304 can be provided adjacent to
ports P1-P3 to provide strain relief for distribution cable 150. Hose clamp 304 can be
coupled to housing 204 with bolts or screws, or by gluing, welding, or other methods.
Hose clamp 304 can comprise a support member 304a, a clamping member 304b, and
10 locking members 304c. Locking members 304c can comprise screws or bolts. In
operation, hose clamp 304 can be coupled to enclosure 204. Clamping member 304b
can be secured around distribution cable 150 by tightening locking members 304c,
thereby holding distribution cable 150 to support member 304a. The present
invention is not limited to the hose clamp 304 described above. Any suitable
15 clamping device for holding distribution cable 150 in housing 204 can be used
without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention.

Near each hose clamp 304, a strain relief device such as a strength member
clamp 306 can be provided. Strength member clamp 306 can be coupled to housing
204 with bolts or screws, or by gluing, welding, or other methods. Strength member
20 clamp 306 can comprise a support member 306a, a clamping member 306b, and a
locking member 306c. Locking member 306c can comprise a screw or a bolt. In
operation, strength member clamp 306 can be coupled to enclosure 204 near hose
clamp 304. As shown in Figure 3, strength members 307 can be provided in
distribution cable 150. Strength members 307 can comprise a strand formed of metal,
25 fiberglass, kevlar, or other nonstretchable material. Clamping member 306b can be

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